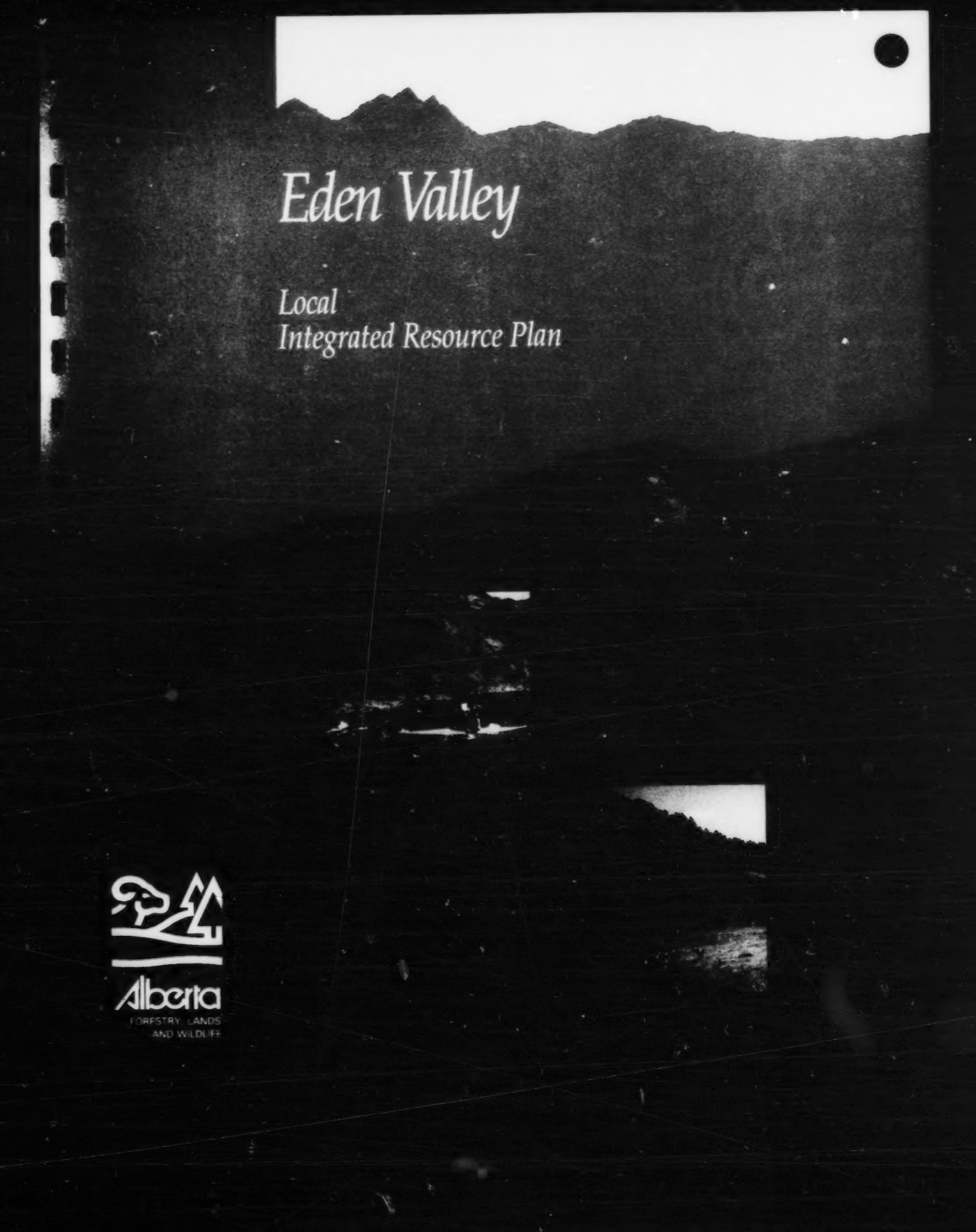

Eden Valley

Local Integrated Resource Plan

Alberta
FORESTRY, LANDS AND WILDLIFE

EDEN VALLEY
LOCAL
INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

Approved by the Minister of
Forestry, Lands & Wildlife
on March 7, 1991.

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PREFACE

This planning document was prepared by government agencies and public consultants in recognition of the need for improved management of Alberta's lands and resources. It applies only to public lands within the Eden Valley planning area, not to private or federal lands.

The plan presents the Government of Alberta's resource management policy for public lands and resources within the area. It is intended to be a guide for resource managers, industry and the public with responsibilities or interests in the area, rather than a regulatory mechanism. Resource potentials and opportunities for development are identified with a view to assisting in the economic progress of Alberta. The plan is sufficiently flexible so that all future proposals for land use and development may be considered. No legitimate proposals will be categorically rejected. Energy resource decisions are subject to the application of regulatory approval processes under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Energy. This plan may influence regulatory decisions, but will not result in the categorical approval or rejection of energy proposals.

The provincial government is committed to serving Albertans. Should a proposal not be in keeping with the provisions of the plan, staff will work with the proponent to explore alternative means for accommodating the proposal in a more appropriate location, either in this planning area or on other public lands. The rejection of any proposal will be done only in writing by the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife or his designate.

A detailed outline for implementation will be provided for this local plan in order to identify the necessary implementation actions and roles. This implementation outline will also provide for the periodic review of the plan so that it may accommodate changing needs and situations. Wherever possible, the private sector will be provided with the opportunity to be actively involved in the operational delivery of the plan.

Implementation is subject to the normal budgetary approval process. In establishing overall priorities, opportunities in other planning areas and areas currently outside the planning process will be considered.

While the plan identifies resource potentials and opportunities, the realization of these may require the dedication of major amounts of public funds. The plan will be used on the understanding that any actions required for implementation will be undertaken only as budgetary approvals are given in the normal way. The private sector will be given the first opportunity to provide any development required.

This plan has no legal status and is subject to revisions or review at the discretion of the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes (Eastern Slopes Policy), approved by provincial cabinet in July 1977 and revised in 1984, identifies integrated resource planning under a comprehensive inter-agency approach as the means for effective management of the resources of the Eastern Slopes region of Alberta. Preparation of integrated resource plans by provincial government agencies that are responsible for managing public lands and resources is one form of implementation of the Eastern Slopes Policy.

In June 1985, in response to public concerns, the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife set aside 186.43 km^2 (72 sq. mi.) of land along the western edge of the municipal district of Foothills #31 from the Kananaskis Country Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan, and requested preparation of a separate local integrated resource plan for the area. The deputy ministers on the Natural Resources Coordinating Council (NRCC) subsequently confirmed the intent to prepare a local plan for the area in October 1985. This resulted in the Eden Valley Local Integrated Resource Plan, initiated in May 1986 as part of the 1986/87 planning program.

The terms of reference for the Eden Valley plan were reviewed by the public and finalized for distribution in June 1987. They provided a framework for preparation of the plan. Collection and analysis of a wide variety of resource data occurred during the spring and summer of 1987. The data were used to develop resource management objectives and guidelines that were incorporated into the draft plan. The draft plan was reviewed by the public in June 1989. After review by a series of interdepartmental government committees, the draft plan was submitted to the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife for approval.

2.0 PLANNING AREA

The Eden Valley planning area is a 186.43 km^2 (72 sq. mi.) tract of low foothills west of the village of Longview in southwestern Alberta (Figure 1). Although the planning area is ecologically diverse, the dominant ecoregion is aspen parkland which consists of a mix of deciduous forests and grasslands. Several tracts of montane mixedwood forest are located in the south and west and an area of boreal foothills is found in the north. Small subalpine outcrops are located on the western fringe of the planning area. The Highwood River and a number of creeks originate in the mountains to the west and flow through the area.

The Eden Valley planning area is bordered on the west by Kananaskis Country which coincides with Improvement District #5. The western boundary of Eden Valley is also the Green Area/White Area boundary and the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve boundary. The eastern boundary of the planning area coincides with the eastern boundary of the Eastern Slopes Policy region. The Eden Valley planning area is entirely in the municipal district of Foothills #31. Approximately 7.8 km^2 (3 sq. mi.) of the Eden Valley Indian Reserve #216 is in the planning area. There are 157.93 km^2 (61 sq. mi.) of public land and 20.7 km^2 (8 sq. mi.) of private land in the planning area.

Domestic livestock grazing is the main resource use of the planning area. All the provincial public land in the planning area is incorporated into 12 grazing leases. Hunting, fishing and camping are popular recreational activities. The potential for timber harvesting exists in portions of the planning area. Petroleum and natural gas exploration and development have been minimal. Secondary Road (SR) 541 crosses the planning area and provides access to Kananaskis Country to the west.

3.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of the Eden Valley Local Integrated Resource Plan is to provide direction for the management and use of public resources in the planning area to maximize benefits for Albertans. A resource is defined as anything perceived by society as having value. It includes items traditionally considered to be resources such as land, timber and minerals, as well as less tangible resources having no obvious market value such as unique ecosystems and recreational opportunities. Generally, the plan maximizes benefits by specifying where, when

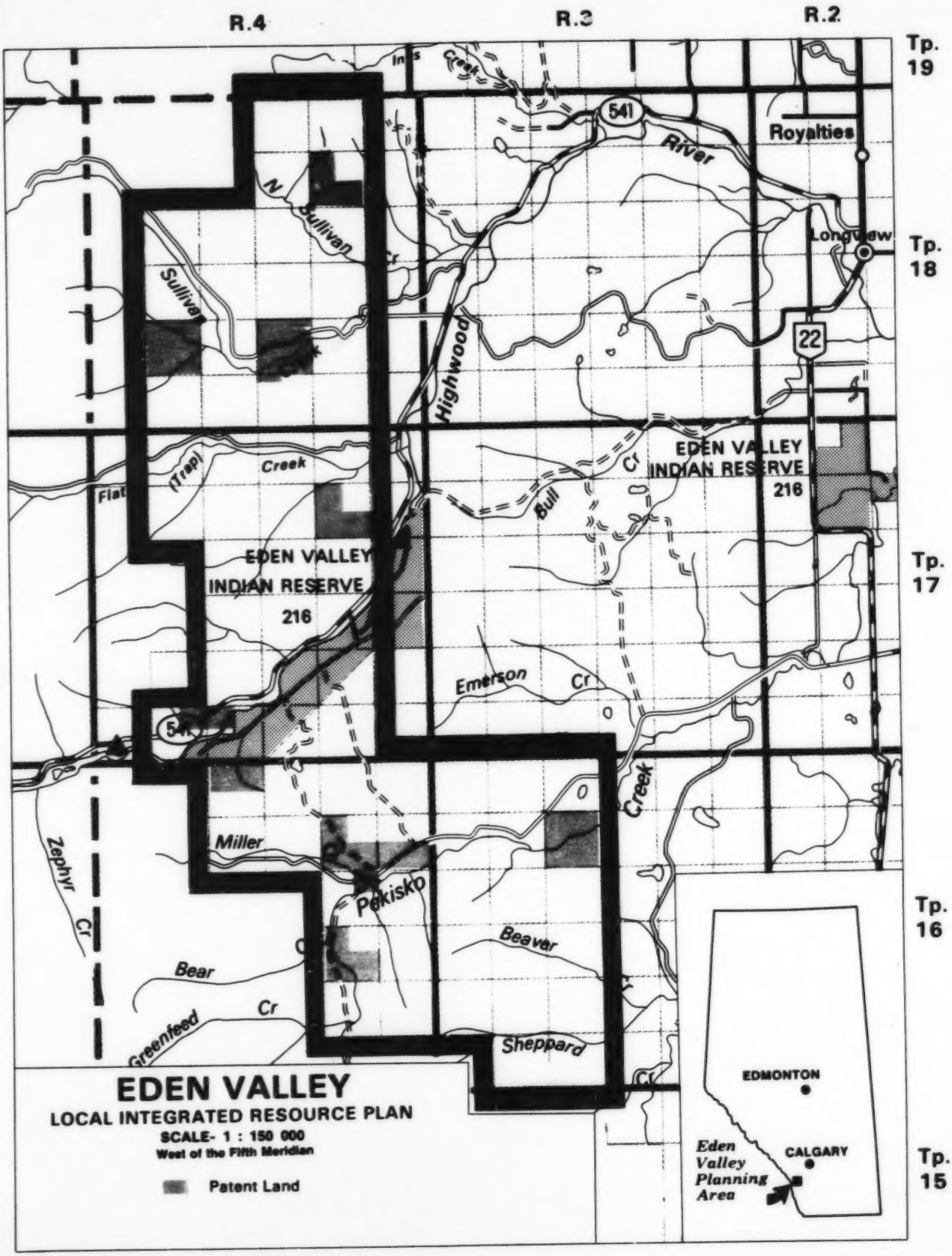

Figure 1 Eden Valley Planning Area

and how resources and resource uses will be managed.

The plan provides a framework for developing and assessing future actions by provincial government agencies and the private sector. More specifically, it provides the government with direction and supporting information for: (a) development and implementation of programs; (b) review and granting of dispositions and approvals for private sector development and use of public resources; and (c) allocation of manpower and funds within existing budgets. The plan provides the private sector with: (a) a clear statement of government intentions for resource management in the planning area; and (b) opportunities for resource development that are compatible with government policy and the likely conditions under which such development could occur.

Direction in the plan is provided by:

1. clarifying, integrating and explicitly stating resource management objectives;

2. providing guidelines for achieving stated resource management objectives;

3. applying the Eastern Slopes Policy zoning boundaries in the planning area; and

4. resolving identified resource management issues.

As a local integrated resource plan, the Eden Valley plan uses a working map scale of 1:50 000. The plan deals with public lands and resources only; it does not address or apply to private land or public resources under private land. However, the effects of land uses on private land and in areas adjacent to the planning area have been considered.

4.0 PARTICIPANTS IN PLAN DEVELOPMENT

A wide range of opportunities to participate in development of the Eden Valley plan has been provided to ensure comprehensive consideration of resource values and to increase commitment to the final plan. Representatives of provincial government agencies, regional authorities, organized public interest groups and the general public have been involved.

A planning team approach is used in the development of integrated resource plans. The planning team consists of representatives from government agencies that have major responsibilities or interests in resource management in the planning area, plus a team coordinator who is responsible for the overall coordination of plan development. The Eden Valley planning team has representatives from the following agencies:

1. Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife

   (a) Alberta Forest Service
   (b) Fish and Wildlife Division
   (c) Public Lands Division

2. Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, Archaeological Survey

Planning team members are field-level resource managers with specific knowledge of resources in the Eden Valley planning area. In the interest of efficiency and effectiveness, the number of members on the team has been kept to a minimum.

Provincial government resource management agencies have the option of becoming consultants to the planning team if their interests in a planning area are not significant enough to justify appointing a representative to the team. Consultants to the planning team are informed about the progress of the plan, and have the opportunity to comment when issues relating to their jurisdiction are being discussed and when planning documents are produced.

The following provincial government agencies have consultants on the Eden Valley plan:

1. Agriculture;
2. Energy Resources Conservation Board;
3. Environment;
4. Energy;
5. Recreation and Parks;
6. Tourism; and
7. Transportation and Utilities.

The Calgary Regional Planning Commission also acts as a consultant and provides comments on planning products.

A public involvement program is conducted during plan development to provide the public with information and opportunities to comment on planning products. Specific objectives of the team regarding public involvement include the following:

1. to use the knowledge of residents in evaluating and improving the resource database;

2. to obtain public opinion on issues that should be addressed and to help determine resource management direction that should be included in the plan;

3. to build public support for the plan;

4. to inform the public about the potential impacts of resource management decisions; and

5. to inform government officials and politicians about public opinion regarding the plan.

Opportunities for public involvement were provided during preparation of the terms of reference, and public review of the draft plan has occurred. At the initial stages of plan development, an attempt was made to contact all individuals and groups interested in participating. Subsequent effort was concentrated on those parties who indicated a continuing interest.

5.0 POLICY AND PLANNING CONTEXT

Resource management activities in the Eden Valley planning area are guided by numerous government directives including legislation, policies and regulations. These directives provide the context for development of the Eden Valley Local Integrated Resource Plan.

5.1 Legislation and Associated Directives

A range of resource management legislation and associated regulations apply throughout Alberta and were considered during development of the Eden Valley plan. Examples of such legislation are the Public Lands Act, Water Resources Act, Forests Act, Wildlife Act and Historic Resources Act. In addition, there are numerous government directives such as orders-in-council and ministerial orders, that guide resource management activities.

5.2 A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes

A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes - Revised 1984 provides direction for resource management and planning for the entire Eastern Slopes policy region, including the Eden Valley planning area (Figure 2). The document is split into a policy component and a regional plan.

The policy section identifies provincial government intentions for the area, including opportunities and priorities for resource management. Watershed management and provision of benefits from recreation and tourism are high priorities. Other priorities are maintenance of the unique character of the Eastern Slopes, resource management that is consistent with principles of conservation and environmental protection, management of renewable resources for the long term, integrated resource planning and public involvement.

The regional plan for the Eastern Slopes provides more specific direction in the form of regional resource management objectives, land use zoning and resource management guidelines. Objectives are provided for 10 resource sectors, while eight regional land use zones are used to designate areas for varying degrees of protection, resource management and development. The general intents for the zones are presented in Table 1. The regional plan also contains the Table of Compatible Activities that categorizes representative resource use activities according to their compatibility with the intent for each land use zone. The Eden Valley plan provides more specific resource management direction

than the Eastern Slopes Policy, and the zoning in the plan takes precedence over the regional zoning.

5.3 A Coal Development Policy for Alberta

A Coal Development Policy for Alberta (Coal Policy) released in 1976, guides the exploration and development of coal resources throughout the province. The province is divided into four categories of suitability for exploration and development. The Eden Valley planning area is entirely within Category 1 where no exploration or commercial development of coal resources is permitted.

5.4 White Area/Green Area

The Eden Valley planning area is in the White Area where suitable public land may be made available for settlement or agricultural development. The White Area and adjacent Green Area to the west were established by order-in-council in 1948. The Green Area contains lands that are not available for settlement or agricultural development other than grazing. The Green Area/White Area boundary along the western edge of the Eden Valley planning area was assessed and confirmed during development of the Kananaskis Country Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan (Figure 2). There are no proposals to change the boundary at this time.

5.5 Plans Under the Planning Act

The Planning Act provides for planning and regulating land use and the pattern of human settlement in Alberta. Most private development, whether on private or public land, is under the jurisdiction of the act and plans prepared under the Planning Act are legally binding. The Calgary Regional Plan and the municipal district of Foothills #31 General Municipal Plan apply to the Eden Valley planning area. The Eden Valley area is designated as an agricultural protection area in the general municipal plan. The purpose of this type of area is to protect high capability agricultural land from non-agricultural uses and minimize negative effects on agricultural operations in the area.

Integrated resource plans differ in that they apply only to provincial public lands and resources and have no legal status. However, the plans represent provincial government policy; government agencies implement the provisions of the plan under the authority of pertinent legislation.

Coordination between provincial resource management agencies and local authorities is essential to ensure the two types of plans are consistent and support each other.

5.6 Fish and Wildlife Policy for Alberta

The Fish and Wildlife Policy for Alberta was approved by Cabinet in October 1982, and provides general direction regarding outdoor recreation, wildlife resources, fisheries resources and regulatory aspects of fish and wildlife use. The most significant components of the policy are a provincial fish and wildlife outdoor recreation plan and an assessment of the status of fisheries and wildlife resources. Fish and Wildlife Division management objectives for the Eden Valley area will be developed to achieve a portion of provincial objectives for these resources.

6.0 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The resource management strategy for the Eden Valley planning area consists of a resource management intent statement, a set of resource management objectives and guidelines, and Eastern Slopes Policy zoning. The resource management intent for the planning area is to allow for the use of the full range of available resources while minimizing adverse impacts on the watershed and other renewable resources.

A resource management objective describes a desirable condition or state for a resource or resource use that can be achieved through management action. A resource management guideline describes a management action or a condition for resource use that contributes to achievement of resource management objectives.

The Eden Valley plan uses the zoning categories and the Table of Compatible

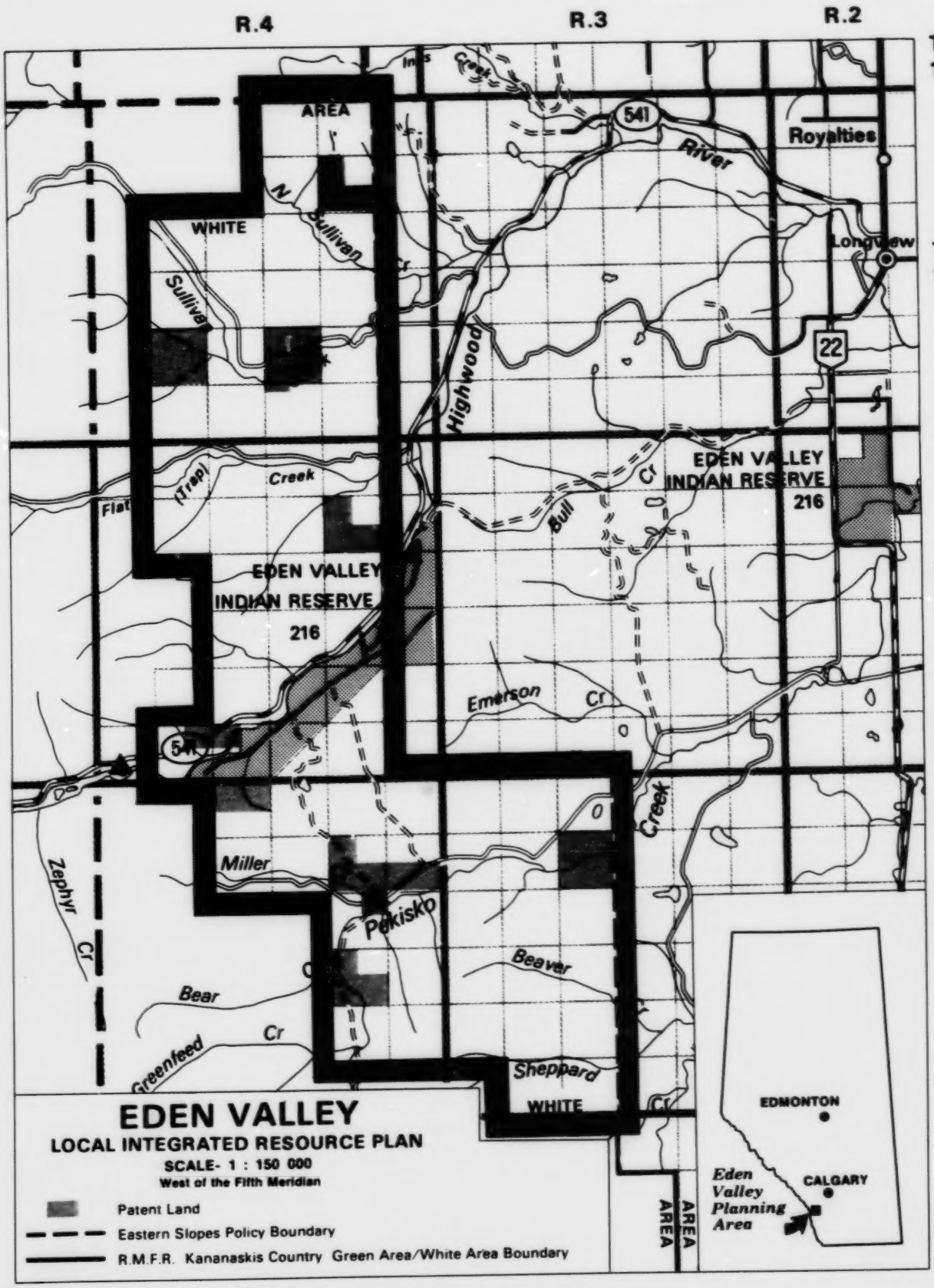

Figure 2 Eden Valley Administrative Boundaries (ES Policy/G/W Area)

Table 1. General Intents for the Eastern Slopes Policy Zones

#	Zone	INTENT FOR THE ZONE
1.	Prime Protection	To preserve environmentally sensitive terrain and valuable ecological and aesthetic resources.
2.	Critical Wildlife	To protect the ranges or terrestrial and aquatic habitats that are crucial to the maintenance of specific fish and wildlife populations.
3.	Special Use	To recognize historic resources, lands set aside for scientific research and any lands which are required to meet unique management requirements, or legislative status, which cannot be accommodated within any of the other zones.
4.	General Recreation	To retain a variety of natural environments within which a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities may be provided.
5.	Multiple Use	To provide for the management and development of the full range of available resources, while meeting the objectives for watershed management and environmental protection in the long term.
6.	Agriculture	To recognize those lands within the Eastern Slopes which are presently utilized or are considered suitable for cultivation and/or improved grazing.
7.	Industrial	To recognize existing or approved industrial operations, such as coal mines, gas processing plants, cement plants and large permanent forest product mills.
8.	Facility	To recognize existing or potential settlement and commercial development areas. The zone must be able to accommodate future growth and additional areas will be zoned as required.

Activities from the Eastern Slopes Policy (Table 2) to provide resource management direction. This table has not been changed from the 1984 Revised Eastern Slopes Policy, except that coal exploration and development have been separated. The planning team interpreted the general intents for the Eastern Slopes Policy zones (Table 3) and modified the zoning boundaries in the planning area. Zoning does not apply to privately owned land.

After considering the eight possible zone types, the planning team zoned the planning area as shown on Figure 3. Critical Wildlife Zoning (Zone 2) was applied to riparian areas along the Highwood River and several creeks to protect elk winter range and fisheries. It was also applied to a mixedwood montane/aspen parkland area in the southeastern corner of the planning area to protect elk winter ranges. Multiple Use Zoning (Zone 5) was applied to the remainder of the planning area to provide for management and use of a range of resources while meeting long-term objectives for watershed management and environmental protection.

The following set of objectives and guidelines are organized alphabetically by resource sector and no priority is intended or implied by their sequence.

6.1 Access

Discussion

The major access route in the Eden Valley area is Secondary Road (SR) 541 that runs along the north side of the Highwood River across the centre of the planning area. This paved road provides access from Highway 22 near Longview to the Highwood Junction area of the Kananaskis Country Recreation Area. Most traffic on Secondary Road (SR) 541 passes through the planning area. Gravel roads along Pekisko, Sullivan and Trap (Flat) creeks provide access to Kananaskis Country and public land in the planning area for hunting, fishing and camping. The Trap (Flat) Creek road is presently closed at the highway where it enters private land and the Sullivan Creek and Pekisko Creek roads are closed periodically where they cross private land. Road closures restrict recreational access in the area and may displace recreationists onto adjacent public and private land east of the foothills. Although the Petty Trespass Act does not apply to grazing leases, under Section 41 of the Criminal Code the lessee may lay assault charges against anyone who resists being asked to leave.

Objectives

1) To coordinate access development to minimize negative effects on resources and resource users.

2) To meet the access requirements of resource users where appropriate.

Guidelines

1) Resource users will be encouraged to use common access corridors to minimize environmental impacts and duplication of effort and expense.

2) Grazing lease holders will be encouraged to allow foot access at all times, and to allow motorized recreational access on selected roads and trails.

3) Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife recommends that all users seek permission from the lessee prior to entering leased lands.

4) All users should take appropriate measures to prevent damage to forage, livestock or improvements on leased lands.

6.2 Fisheries Resources

Discussion

Important stream fisheries are found in the Eden Valley planning area. Rainbow, brook, cutthroat, bull trout and mountain whitefish are present in the area. Sullivan, Trap (Flat) and Pekisko creeks provide significant fisheries and are key spawning streams for Bow River trout in their lower sections. Trap (Flat) Creek is an important spawning, rearing and overwintering area for cutthroat and rainbow trout. Sullivan Creek and its tributaries are important for spawning, rearing and overwintering of rainbow trout. Rainbow, bull

TABLE 2. COMPATIBLE ACTIVITIES BY LAND USE ZONE [1]

ACTIVITY	ZONE 2 CRITICAL WILDLIFE	ZONE 5 MULTIPLE USE
Non-motorized recreation	■	■
Fishing	■	■
Hunting	■	■
Scientific study	□	■
Trapping	□	■
Trails; non-motorized	□	■
Transportation and utility corridors	□	■
Primitive camping	□	■
Intensive recreation	×	■
Off-highway vehicle activity	□	■
Logging	□	■
Domestic grazing	□	■
Petroleum and natural gas exploration and development	□	■
Coal exploration	□	■
Coal development	□	■
Mineral exploration and development	□	■
Serviced camping	□	□
Commercial development	×	■
Industrial development	×	□
Residential subdivisions	×	□
Cultivation	×	□

■ Compatible Use -Uses that are considered to be compatible with the intent of a land use zone under normal guidelines and land use regulations.

□ Permitted Use -Uses that may be compatible with the intent of a land use zone under certain circumstances and under special conditions and controls where necessary.

× Not-Permitted Use -Uses that are not considered to be compatible with the intent or capabilities of a land use zone.

These activities are only representative of the range of activities that occur in the Eastern Slopes. For these and any other activities, the possibility of whether they should or should not take place in a particular area must always be measured against the fundamental management intentions for that zone. Since economic opportunities are not all known in advance, site-specific developments may be considered in any zone.

[1] From "A Policy for Resource Management for the Eastern Slopes-Revised 1984"

■ Not applicable in the Eden Valley Planning Area

Table 3. Planning Team Interpretation of the Intents for the Eastern Slopes Policy Zones

#	Zone	INTERPRETATION OF INTENT FOR THE ZONE
1	Prime Protection	To preserve environmentally sensitive terrain and valuable aesthetic resources.
*2	Critical Wildlife	To protect specific fish and wildlife populations by protecting aquatic and terrestrial habitat crucial to the maintenance of those populations.
3	Special Use	To recognize historical resources, scientific research areas and lands that have unique management requirements or legislative status, or which cannot be accommodated elsewhere.
4	General Recreation	To retain a variety of natural environments to serve as a focus for a wide range of outdoor recreational activities.
*5	Multiple Use	To provide for the management and development of the full range of available resources, while meeting long-term objectives for watershed management and environmental protection.
6	Agriculture	To designate lands that are currently used or are considered suitable for cultivation or improved grazing.
7	Industrial	To recognize existing or approved industrial operations.
8	Facility	To recognize existing or approved settlement and commercial development areas.

* Applies to the Eden Valley planning area.

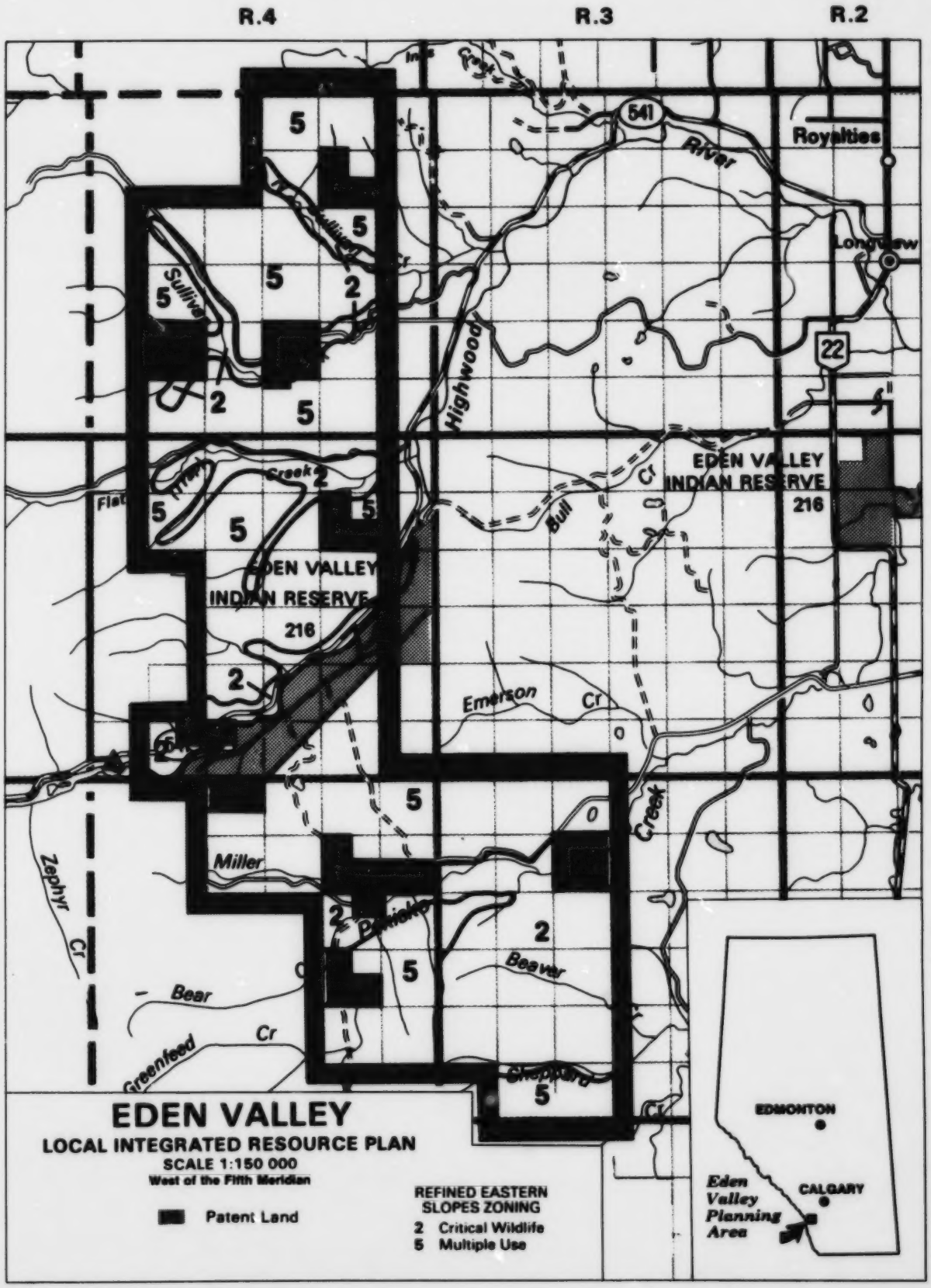

Figure 3 Refined Eastern Slopes Zoning

and brook trout and mountain whitefish are found in the Highwood River. Fishing for whitefish and trout are popular activities on the Highwood River and Sullivan Creek, respectively. The Highwood River and all tributaries are closed to fishing from November 1 to June 15. A summary of pertinent regulations is provided in the annual Guide to Sportfishing Regulations. The planning area is within Fish Management Area 5.

Objectives

1) To maintain and, where possible, enhance naturally reproducing game fish populations. A sub-objective is to maintain fish populations at the indicated levels in the following streams:

   a) Highwood River - 300 to 700 fish/kilometre;
   b) Sullivan Creek - 300 to 750 fish/kilometre; and
   c) Trap (Flat) Creek - 300 to 500 fish/kilometre.

2) To provide a variety of angling opportunities for recreational use of fisheries resources.

Guidelines

1) Sport fish populations and habitat will be protected by minimizing contact between resource developments and streams, maintaining water quality and reclaiming disturbed sites.

2) The Highwood River and tributaries may be closed periodically to fishing to protect fish populations.

3) Fish and Wildlife Division will review operational activities and provide input through existing referral systems in accordance with fisheries habitat protection guidelines. Mitigative measures will be recommended to compensate for habitat loss, to minimize siltation and to enhance stream habitat.

6.3 Historical Resources

Discussion

To date, no prehistoric archaeological investigations have taken place within the planning area. However, large numbers of sites have been recorded to the immediate west along the Highwood River and several of its smaller tributaries. Several sites have also been recorded at dispersed roadway and pipeline projects east of the planning area along the Highwood River.

These archaeological sites contain remains of the activities of prehistoric hunting and gathering groups that frequented the area some 12 000 years before Europeans arrived. Typical features are campsites, animal kill sites, tipi rings and isolated scattered artifacts. Two ceremonial structures, a possible medicine wheel and a rare pictograph (rock painting) are also present. Although none are located in the planning area, these sites serve to indicate the variety of prehistoric archaeological resources that may be present throughout the Highwood River basin.

The potential for archaeological sites is high in parts of the planning area, with the Highwood River valley having the highest potential. The river valley was probably a major resource exploitation area and important travel corridor. Plains bison congregated in the foothills zone during winter to obtain shelter and forage; campsites and other remains may also be found in such areas. The river valley provided access between the bison-rich plains and varied mountain habitats, as well as into small diverse ecozones along the river tributaries. The Highwood River originates in a pass that allows access into the Kananaskis, Sheep and Elbow river drainages as well as into the Elk Valley of British Columbia. The tributaries of the Highwood River, ridge tops that served as game lookouts, deposits of stone suitable for making tools and several small lakes also have high archaeological site potential.

A final consideration regarding the archaeological potential of the planning area relates to the possible occurrence of very ancient sites. During glacial times the first inhabitants of the Americas may have entered the continent by way of an ice-free corridor

along the Eastern Slopes. Consequently, ancient sites may occur in the area but considering the extent of post-glacial events, such evidence may exist in a deeply buried context. Although such finds would be quite rare, their discovery would be of major significance.

The planning area is also of heritage significance to people from the Eden Valley Indian Reserve #216, who consider parts of it to be sacred.

Palaeontological resources are most likely to be found in exposed bedrock. Although limited in the planning area, bedrock is exposed along stream courses and on some ridges. Bedrock deposits are late Mesozoic sandstone, shale or coal from the Brazeau Belly River Group, Alberta Group, Blairmore Formation and Kootenay Group. Potential palaeontological resources include ammonites, dinosaurs (footprints and bone), other vertebrates, plants, molluscs and pelecypods. Few assessments of the geology and palaeontology in the planning area have occurred, and no sites with palaeontological resources have been identified. Any new localities containing these resources would be of great importance and interest.

There are several sites within the planning area that are of interest to the Historic Sites Service of Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism. Five historic ranch sites with structures dating from the 1880s to the 1940s have been recorded. These are:

a) Stampede Ranch, SW25-17-4-W5M;
b) Cartwright D. Ranch, SE25-16-4-W5M;
c) Nelson and Earl Ranch, NW24-17-4-W5M;
d) Melvin Nelson Ranch, SE10-17-4-W5M;
e) Burkes Summer House and Stable, SW14-16-4-W5M.

The first four sites have been assigned a preliminary rating of Priority 2 which indicates they have local or regional significance. Additional historical research may alter the rating to a Priority 1. The Burkes summer home and stable were constructed in 1911 and little is known of the historical significance of the site. The building would be assigned a Priority 3 rating which indicates a more typical example of building types in the area.

Local residents have reported an additional two ranches; the Y Cross Ranch and the O.H. or Rio Alto Ranch. Currently, there is limited information on these two ranches and additional research will be required before their significance can be determined. Given the above documentation, it is evident that the area exhibits potential for the discovery of additional ranch-related structures and sites. In addition to the above potentially significant sites, the area of the Eden Valley Indian Reserve #216 may contain historic resources associated with native occupancy. Further fieldwork in the planning area would be required to determine the exact extent of historical resources.

Objectives

1) To conserve and protect historical resources (archaeological, historical, palaeontological and natural) from potential or actual impact associated with resource development.

2) To manage significant historical resource sites for scientific, educational and interpretive purposes.

Guidelines

1) Resource uses that result in land surface disturbance may require Historical Resources Impact Assessments prior to development.

2) The Resource Management Section of the Archaeological Survey of Alberta will participate in the land use referral process by reviewing proposed development projects in areas with high historical resources potential.

3) Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism will develop a historical resources sensitivity zone map for the planning area, outlining those areas requiring referrals.

4) Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism will identify specific types of development projects to be reviewed

through the referral process at the implementation stage of this plan.

5) Significant historical resource sites will be protected and preserved for future generations.

6.4 Mineral Resources

Discussion

Bedrock in the planning area consists of Lower Cretaceous sandstones, shales and conglomerates from the Blairmore Group. Bedrock is overlain by Upper Cretaceous rocks from the Blackstone, Bighorn and Wapiabi formations. Sandstones and conglomerates form the bedrock ridges and hills in the area because they are more resistant to erosion than the shales found in the lower areas. Overburden is mainly ground moraine, till, gravel, colluvium and stream deposits of alluvial material.

Surface materials (i.e., sand and gravel) are found in the southeastern portion of the planning area on the glacial floodplain adjacent to Pekisko Creek, and in the western portion of the planning area on the glacial floodplain area adjacent to the Highwood River. Alberta Transportation and Utilities operates one gravel pit and has a second pit area under reservation on the Highwood River glacial floodplain. The municipal district of Foothills #31 operates a pit under a Surface Material Lease on the Pekisko Creek glacial floodplain. There is potential for expansion of the surface material resource in the planning area. The extent of reserves has been evaluated in the Highwood area but not in the Pekisko Creek area.

Petroleum and natural gas exploration and development have been limited to a few seismic lines and two drilled and abandoned wells. While the planning area is not currently productive, the potential for natural gas is considered moderate based on regional geology and the production of Rundle Formation gas from nearby wells. Existing Crown petroleum and natural gas agreements, which indicate current and future interest in activity, are concentrated in the southern half of the planning area.

The potential for coal is not high, although there are a number of coal occurrences in the surrounding area, and thin seams having uncertain potential for development underlie the planning area. No other minerals are known to occur in the planning area.

Objectives

1) To provide opportunities for exploration and continued development of surface materials.

2) To continue to provide opportunities for exploration and development of mineral resources.

Guidelines

1) Exploration and development of mineral resources will be considered under the existing approval process.

2) Exploration programs will be reviewed to ensure the environmental and visual impacts are minimized.

3) Mineral exploration and development will be permitted in areas zoned Critical Wildlife (Zone 2) under the normal approval process, provided the value of the area to wildlife can be maintained. Mineral activities should avoid Critical Wildlife areas as much as possible. Where avoidance is not possible, the project must be designed to minimize disturbance of wildlife habitat and undertake mitigative measures to maintain habitat capability in or adjacent to the project area. When reclamation is undertaken following exploration and development, re-establishment of wildlife habitat will be a high priority.

6.5 Range Resources

Discussion

The planning area has a long history of domestic livestock grazing and grazing provides significant economic benefits to ranchers in the area. Twelve grazing leases and one ranching co-operative cover all public land in the area.

The 1977 carrying capacity of leases was 15 099 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) of grazing. Brush and forest encroachment have reduced the present carrying capacity by 2345 to 12 754 AUMs. There is one farm development lease in the area for growing hay or green feed.

Objectives

1) To provide a forage base capable of supporting the 1977 carrying capacity which provided 15 099 AUMs for domestic livestock.

2) To increase the carrying capacity of the forage base above 1977 levels where this will not adversely affect other resources.

3) To maintain the forage base in good condition for use by domestic livestock and wildlife.

Guidelines

1) The continuing loss of forage due to brush encroachment may be offset, where feasible, by range improvement.

2) Range management and development plans will be completed for grazing dispositions to identify areas suitable for development of tame or native forage, and to identify required improvements such as fencing and water developments. Grazing lessees will participate in preparation of the plans.

3) Periodic evaluations of grazing dispositions will be conducted to ensure carrying capacities are accurate and 45 percent of total annual production is maintained as carryover. Carryover is important for range vigour and wildlife habitat.

4) Range improvement assistance to grazing lessees will be provided under the Range Improvement Regulations that are in effect when the lessee applies for range improvement.

5) Public land under grazing disposition will be assessed to identify lands capable of sustained-yield timber production, forage production and wildlife support (i.e., habitat). The acreage suitable for timber and forage production will be calculated for each grazing disposition. The larger acreage will be set as the productive land base. Approximately 40 percent of the productive land base on each grazing disposition will be designated for native and, where appropriate, tame forage production. Approximately 60 percent of the productive land base on each grazing disposition will be designated for sustained-yield timber production. The wildlife resource will continue to use the total acreage in the grazing disposition. The lands will be reserved from sale.

6) Where exclusive use of a range area is required for wildlife, the forage used for livestock grazing will be replaced elsewhere on the grazing disposition.

6.6 Recreational and Tourism Resources

Discussion

The Eden Valley planning area has been used for a variety of outdoor recreation activities including big game hunting, fishing, camping and horseback riding. Whitewater kayaking and canoeing are popular on the Highwood River, and several whitewater competitions have been held on this stretch of river. The planning area provides limited recreational opportunities for surrounding residents. Although there are no campgrounds in the planning area, Alberta Transportation and Utilities operates a small recreation area between Secondary Road (SR) 541 and the Highwood River immediately to the east of the planning area. Kananaskis Country, to the immediate west, is a major tourist attraction that provides a wide range of summer and winter outdoor recreational opportunities. It serves local, regional, provincial, national and international recreational users.

Recreational access to Kananaskis Country through the planning area and to some public land under grazing lease, has been restricted by landowners and leaseholders. Uncontrolled recreation has interfered with livestock grazing operations. For example,

random camping along several creeks has interfered with cattle access to watering sites. Disruption of livestock, damage to range and garbage left by recreationists have resulted in access restrictions by landowners and lessees. Recreational vehicle access across the privately owned sections of the Trap (Flat) Creek, Sullivan Creek and Pekisko Creek roads is at the discretion of the landowners.

Objectives

1) To maintain the quality of recreational and tourism resources.

2) To maintain opportunities for non-motorized, low intensity recreation such as fishing, hunting, hiking, bird watching, berry picking and horseback riding.

Guidelines

1) Low intensity, dispersed recreational use will be promoted where it is compatible with environmental conditions and other land uses.

2) Through ongoing promotion of the Use Respect Program, recreational users will be encouraged to cooperate with grazing disposition holders.

3) Grazing disposition holders will be encouraged to allow recreational users access to leased public land. Non-motorized recreational access should be allowed and motorized recreational access should occur only on selected roads and trails.

4) Random camping on public land within the planning area is discouraged. Camping at developed recreation areas in Kananaskis Country and at the Alberta Transportation and Utilities Recreation Site on Secondary Road (SR) 541 is encouraged.

5) In the event that the access situation changes, development of a staging area would be considered along the Trap (Flat) Creek road at or near the boundary of Kananaskis Country.

6.7 Timber Resources

Discussion

The planning area is entirely in the White Area and includes portions of C01 and B02 Forest Management Units. In the past, timber harvesting operations were undertaken on a liquidation basis before range improvement projects occurred. The planning area is currently being assessed, as part of the C01 and B02 units, to determine the potential for sustained-yield forest management.

The forest is mostly within the mature to overmature age classes, and is composed of predominately lodgepole pine and aspen with a lesser component of white spruce. Preliminary indications are that the planning area supports a total volume of 246 088 m^3 of timber, of which 49 percent is considered to be presently unharvestable as the result of steep terrain. A forest inventory will be done to determine the extent of timber resources in the planning area more accurately. Annual allowable cut levels will be established on the basis of this information. Timber resources are located primarily in the North Sullivan, Sullivan, Trap (Flat) and Pekisko drainages. Evidence of dwarf mistletoe infection has been found in the Sullivan miscellaneous timber use (MTU) area northwest of the planning area.

The occurrence of forest cover in this planning area and Kananaskis Country to the west suggests that the potential for wildfires originating from within or outside the Eden Valley planning area may be moderate to high. The municipal district of Foothills #31 is presently responsible for wildfire prevention and suppression in the Eden Valley planning area. The Alberta Forest Service takes action on wildfires in the planning area when there is a threat to public safety and natural resources in Kananaskis Country, or when requested to do so by the municipal district. Currently, there is no formal wildfire prevention and suppression agreement in effect between the municipal district and the Alberta Forest Service. Considering public safety concerns, property and natural resource values and ranching operations in this planning area and recreational values associated with Kananaskis Country, forest protection services and resources will be extended to formally include the Eden Valley planning area.

Objectives

1) To manage forest resources on a long-term, sustained-yield basis for local or small scale commercial requirements integrated with other resource management objectives.

2) To protect the forest from damage or destruction by wildfire, insects, disease or other causes, and to maintain healthy and stable forest conditions.

Guidelines

1) A forest inventory will be carried out in the planning area to provide a basis for determining annual allowable cut levels. Operational plans will be prepared for each grazing lease with the participation of the lessee, and will integrate forest management with ranching operations and wildlife management. This information will be incorporated within a timber management plan to be prepared and implemented with an annual allowable cut defined for the C01 and B02 Forest Management Units (See guideline 5 under Range Resources - Section 6.5).

2) Timber harvesting operations will be conducted using landscape logging techniques applied in the Bow/Crow Forest following principles contained in the Timber Harvest Cutblock Design Manual (ENR Report No. 43-1977), Forest Landscape Management Guidelines for Alberta (FLW Publ. No. T/125-1986) and operating ground rules established to protect wildlife and fisheries habitat.

3) Reforestation of harvested stands will occur in accordance with established reforestation policy on lands identified for sustained-yield forest management.

4) Forest Protection Area Regulation (AR414/83), pursuant to the Forest and Prairie Protection Act (RSA 1980), will be amended to include the Eden Valley planning area within the Forest Protection Area. Forest protection and wildfire suppression capabilities in the planning area will be evaluated such that initial attack and other suppression resources will be available to respond to wildfire situations. Fire permits enabling local residents to conduct burning operations during the prescribed fire season may be obtained from the Alberta Forest Service.

5) In other situations, the Alberta Forest Service will provide advice about wildfire prevention and respond to wildfires at the request of, and cost to, the municipal district of Foothills #31.

6) Forest conditions will be monitored as required to determine whether dwarf mistletoe infection is present in the area and if on-site treatments are required.

7) Forest vegetation will be managed in a manner that will avoid detrimental changes to streamflow characteristics. Timber harvesting will occur in a way that optimizes snow catchment and retention in cutover areas to influence soil moisture regimes favourably.

6.8 Water and Watershed Resources

Discussion

The Eden Valley planning area is entirely within the drainage basin of the Highwood River. The largest stream in the planning area, the Highwood River, originates to the west in the mountains of Kananaskis Country, flowing to the northeast across the centre of the planning area and eventually draining into the Bow River downstream from Calgary. Sullivan, Trap (Flat), Pekisko and Sheppard creeks are major streams that also originate in the mountains and flow through the planning area. Minor streams are North Sullivan, South Sullivan, Cutthroat, Waldie, Deep, Marston, Miller, Dickson and Beaver creeks. Several small water bodies, known as the Beaudry Lakes, are located immediately south of the Eden Valley Indian Reserve #216.

Peak flows on the Highwood River occur in June with minimum flow levels from November to February. Summer peak levels and winter lows can differ by a factor of 50. A

similar flow regime can be expected for the other streams in the planning area.

Water resources in the planning area are important for a number of uses. Water bodies provide a focus for recreational activities, including camping and picnicking. Sport fishing occurs on the Highwood River and several of the larger creeks. The 9.7 km (6 mi.) stretch of the Highwood River within the planning area has numerous rapids and is popular for kayaking and canoeing. Fish and wildlife populations are dependent on the water resources. The Highwood River and several tributaries are important as spawning areas for rainbow trout from the Bow River. Many creeks are used for stock-watering, and water from Pekisko Creek is used for irrigation downstream of the planning area.

Alberta Environment has prepared a planning study to address water resource management issues in the Pekisko and Stimson Creek basins. Short stretches of Pekisko Creek and upper Sheppard Creek, which drain into Stimson Creek, are within the Eden Valley planning area. Results of the study were released to the public in August 1989.

Objectives

1) To maintain water quality in streams and rivers in the planning area.

2) To maintain water yield to satisfy on-site and downstream demands for domestic, agricultural (livestock grazing and irrigation) and industrial uses, and fish and wildlife populations. A sub-objective is to maintain adequate water flows in the Highwood River and Sullivan, Trap (Flat) and Pekisko creeks to support rainbow trout spawning from the Bow River.

Guidelines

1) Alberta Environment will continue to monitor water yield and quality in the planning area.

2) Reclamation guidelines and standards will be followed and enforced for surface and sub-surface dispositions. Areas disturbed by land use activities will be reclaimed within one year of initial disturbance, or on a progressive basis where disturbance is long term.

6.9 Wildlife Resources

Discussion

The planning area supports elk, moose, white-tailed and mule deer, black bear, grizzly bear and cougar. Open south- and southwest-facing slopes are crucial to ungulate survival during winter, and the Highwood River valley and South Pekisko area are two of the most important ranges for elk in the province. The planning area also supports a variety of small furbearers with the most common species being beaver, muskrat, coyote, weasel and squirrel. A variety of birds, including raptors, are found in the planning area. Geese nest on small lakes in the southeast corner of the Nelson Ranch.

The planning area is within Big Game Zone 7 and Wildlife Management Units 310 and 312. In 1988, there were fall hunting seasons for white-tailed and mule deer, moose and elk in the planning area. Spring and fall seasons also occurred for black bear, with special hunting seasons for grizzly bear and cougar.

Big game hunters and outfitters use the planning area as a staging area for trips into Kananaskis Country, since motor vehicles are prohibited in the adjacent portion of Kananaskis Country. There is one fur management area in the planning area.

Objectives

1) To maintain natural wildlife populations including ungulates, furbearers and birds. More specific components of this objective are:

   a) to maintain the Highwood River valley elk herd at a minimum of 300 animals;
   b) to maintain the Trap (Flat) Creek elk herd at a minimum of 100 animals;
   c) to maintain the Pekisko Creek elk herd at 300 animals (the herd may be increased beyond 300 using appropriate techniques); and

d) to maintain moose populations at four animals per square mile.

2) To protect the following critical wildlife areas for the indicated species:

a) North Sullivan Creek valley for moose;
b) Trap (Flat) Creek valley for elk and deer;
c) Highwood River valley for elk and deer;
d) the eastern portion of the Pekisko area for moose, elk and deer; and
e) the western portion of the Pekisko area for moose.

3) To maintain opportunities for consumptive and non-consumptive use of wildlife resources.

Guidelines

1) Disturbance of wildlife populations during sensitive time periods will be minimized. Disturbance will be reduced by managing access and controlling hunting activities.

2) Hunting and trapping regulations will be reviewed regularly in relation to hunter use, harvest levels and the condition of game populations, to ensure the long-term survival of such populations.

3) The Fish and Wildlife Division will continue to review and provide input to government referrals on land use activities with potential impact on wildlife resources. Emphasis will be placed on avoiding unnecessary negative impacts on wildlife, and on working cooperatively with resource users to take advantage of opportunities for wildlife habitat enhancement.

4) Any increases in the Pekisko Creek elk herd beyond 300 animals will be monitored to ensure the level of domestic grazing in the area is not reduced.

7.0 PLAN MANAGEMENT

General administrative procedures and mechanisms required for plan implementation, monitoring and amendment are outlined in this section.

7.1 General Administration

The Eden Valley Local Integrated Resource Plan will be implemented within the terms of appropriate legislation, regular programs and activities of the government, operational plans, specific development projects and referral processes. The revised zoning provides a means of processing applications for new public land dispositions within the planning area. Existing systems for referral and interdepartmental review will apply to the plan. Resources will continue to be administered by the departments responsible, in line with approved zoning, resource management guidelines and any operational plans.

Government management agencies participating in the Eden Valley Local Integrated Resource Plan will have several responsibilities to ensure effective delivery of this plan. It will be their responsibility to deal with conflicts or concerns with respect to implementation or interpretation of any of the plan's provisions. These responsibilities are outlined by subject area below.

Referral Systems: Participating government management agencies will ensure that existing referral systems of the Alberta government are adequate to encompass all affected or concerned agencies.

Plan Monitoring: The Eden Valley Local Integrated Resource Plan will be reviewed annually by the Central Regional Resource Management Committee to:

(a) assess the relevancy of the stated resource objectives in light of changing conditions;
(b) assess the resource management guidelines and referral procedures;
(c) assess agency operational plans to ensure their consistency with the intents, objectives and guidelines contained in the plan; and

(d) recommend amendments to the Eden Valley Local Integrated Resource Plan and future actions required to maintain or promote government resource management activities in the planning area.

An annual report will be prepared by the Central Regional Resource Management Committee. The report will highlight the previous year's activities in the planning area. It will also indicate what might be expected to be accomplished in the planning area during the next year. The report may be deferred if there is a lack of activity or progress on government resource management objectives within the planning area.

On a periodic basis (approximately every five years), an overall assessment of the plan will be conducted by the Central Regional Resource Management Committee. If the plan is found to be no longer current, a major plan review will occur.

For example, a major plan review would occur when the plan is considered out-of-date due to significant resource changes or new priorities. This review would include:

(a) a comprehensive review of all aspects of the plan including, but not limited to, resource management objectives and guidelines, and land-use zoning;
(b) a public review similar to the public review involved in the development of new integrated resource plans; and
(c) a statement recommending amendments to the plan and future actions required to maintain or promote government resource management activities in the planning area.

7.2 Amendment Procedures

Changes to the planning area boundary, broad planning area resource management objectives, land use zoning, the activity/zone matrix and resource management guidelines that would result in significant changes to the allowed resource uses or priorities will require major amendments to the Eden Valley plan. An amendment to the plan may be required as a result of an annual review, government requests or a request from an individual, group or organization outside the government.

Proposed amendments to the Eden Valley Local Integrated Resource Plan from outside the government should be made by formal application to the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Public Lands Division, Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. Guidelines for preparing requests for amendments to integrated resource plans are available upon request from the Resource Planning Branch of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife in Edmonton. Opportunities for public review of significant amendments to the Eden Valley plan will be provided before changes are approved by the government.

The decision to consider requests to amend an integrated resource plan rests with the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife or his designate. Amendments that entail a major policy decision or a change to the basic intent of the plan may be forwarded to the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife for review and approval.

GLOSSARY

Animal Unit Month (AUM)	A measure of forage or feed required to maintain one animal unit (i.e., a mature cow of 455 kg [1 003 lb.] with or without an unweaned calf for a period of 30 days.
Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)	The total volume of timber that may be harvested in one year based on sustained yield management.
Archaeological Resource	"...a work of man that (i) is primarily of value for its prehistoric, historic, cultural or scientific significance, and (ii) is or was buried or partially buried in land in Alberta or submerged beneath the surface of any watercourse or permanent body of water in Alberta." As recognized by Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism.
Carrying Capacity (Range)	The maximum number of animals that can graze annually on a given range for a specific period of time, without inducing a downward trend in forage production, forage quality or soil.
Consumptive Use	Those uses of resources that reduce the supply - such as hunting, logging and mining. Conversely, non-consumptive use does not reduce the supply - such as wildlife viewing.
Critical Habitat	Habitat that is crucial to the size, distribution or stability of a wildlife or fish population.
Cultivation	Agricultural practices associated with the regular tillage of land for production of annual and/or forage crops.
Disposition	Dispositions may be of a permanent nature as through the sale of land, or may be temporary as when rights to particular lands or resources, either surface or subsurface, are granted for a finite period of time. The most common forms of disposition are by sale, lease, licence or permit.
Domestic Grazing	All activities associated with the production and use of forage for domestic livestock including range improvement. (Eastern Slopes Policy Activity Definitions)
Ecoregion	An ecological region found on a given area of land refers to an ecosystem which characterizes a large geographical

	area and is intended to be a broad level of generalization for classification of landscapes "an area characterized by a distinctive regional climate as expressed by vegetation."
Farm Development Lease	A lease which permits cultivation or a combination of cultivation and grazing. The maximum term of the Farm Development Lease is 10 years. Leases with an option to purchase are normally issued for five years, but may be renewed for a further five-year term.
Forage	All browse and non-woody plants that are available to livestock or wildlife.
Forest Management Unit	An area of forest land that is designated by the minister for the purposes of administration (Forest Act, RSA 1980,c.F-16). The annual allowable cut for timber is determined with respect to forest management unit boundaries.
Forest Protection Area	Those lands in the Province of Alberta for which the Alberta Forest Service of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife is responsible for providing forest protection. These lands are determined by Order-in-Council, under the Forest and Prairie Protection Act,(Chapter F-14, Revised Statutes of Alberta, 1980).
Grazing Lease (GRL)	Crown grazing land disposition issued on an area of land which is suitable for supporting livestock. Leases are legislated under the Public Lands Act (RSA 1980, P-30) and are issued for public lands in the Green Area and White Area outside the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve, usually for a term of five or 10 years. The lease allows the lessee exclusive use of the land for grazing.
Green Area	The Green Area, established in 1948 by the Alberta Order-in-Council 213/48, consists of the non-settled forest lands and covers 50.9 per cent of the total area of the Province of Alberta. Public lands in the Green Area are managed primarily for forest production, watershed protection, fish and wildlife management, recreation and other multiple uses. Permanent settlement, except on legally subdivided lands, as well as agricultural uses other than grazing, have been excluded (Alberta Public Lands [Alberta 1981a]).
Historical Resource	"...any work of nature or of man that is primarily of value for its palaeontological, archaeological, prehistoric, historic, cultural, natural, scientific or aesthetic interest including, but not limited to, a palaeontological,

	archaeological, prehistoric, historic, or natural site, structure or object." As recognized by Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism.
Historic Site	"...any site which includes or is comprised of an historical resource of an immovable nature or which cannot be disassociated from its context without destroying some or all of its value as an historical resource and includes a prehistoric, historic or natural site or structure." As recognized by Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism.
Historical Resources Impact Assessment	Projects normally instituted in conjunction with development programs that are anticipated to cause ground surface disturbance within the Province of Alberta. The objectives of such projects are to locate all historical resource sites to be affected by the development program, to evaluate the worth of such sites relative to Alberta historical resources as a whole, to determine the nature of the impact of the development program on individual sites, and to propose conservation procedures for those sites to be affected by the development. (Interim Guidelines.)
Improved Grazing	Grazing lands that have had productivity enhanced by clearing and the establishment of tame forage stands and/or various range maintenance projects such as brush regrowth control, crossfencing, drainage, etc..
Lessee	One to whom a lease is granted; a tenant holding property by lease.
Local Timber Permit (LTP)	As authorized by the Timber Management Regulations, a permit issued normally to local residents that allows for the cutting of timber to a maximum of 750 m3 coniferous or 1500 m3 deciduous that expires on April 30 of any year.
Miscellaneous Timber Use Area (MTU)	Land set aside within a forest management unit to provide timber for local use. The area represents a portion of the annual allowable cut for that forest management unit. Timber is allocated and authorized for use through Local Timber Permits (LTPs) of Commercial Timber Permits (CTPs).
Mitigation	The act of making or becoming milder, or less severe.
Palaeontological Resource	"...a work of nature consisting of or containing evidence of extinct multicellular beings and includes those works of nature or classes of works of nature designated by the

	regulations as palaeontological resources." As recognized by Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism.
Patent Land	Privately owned land.
Public Land	Land which is held under the administration of the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. Title to the beds and shores of all rivers, streams, water-courses, lakes and other bodies of water is declared to vested in the Crown in the right of Alberta and under the administration of the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife (Public Lands Act, RSA 1980,P-30) unless the title specifies otherwise.
Raptors	Animals having talons or claws adapted for seizing and holding prey.
Reclamation	Post-disturbance modification of the landscape tc a desired state. This usually entails maintaining a productive and balanced ecological state that is resistant to environmental deterioration and is consistent with aesthetic values.
Referral System	The Alberta Government has established formal mechanisms for the internal review of land use applications originating from within itself and the private sector. Government management agencies concerned or affected by the provisions of an application participate in its review. Subsequent to the review, each management agency files its recommendation for the approval or rejection of the application. These positions are coordinated by a lead agency (i.e., "one window" approach) which, in turn, provides the proponent with a comprehensive decision.
Regional Resource Management Committee (RRMC)	A group of regional directors representing each of the involved divisions of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife and other agency representatives on an occasional and "as needed" basis. The RRMC reviews planning documents and has the primary responsibility for implementing the planning process.
Riparian Habitat	A vegetation zone influenced by groundwater, sub-irrigation (areas where a high water table reaches and/or saturates the root zone) or surface water, and which provides important habitat for fish, waterfowl and a majority of wildlife species. This vegetation is often a transition zone between aquatic and terrestrial habitat.
Staging Area	A site developed to provide access to trails.

Sustained Yield Timber Management	The balancing of timber growth and harvesting production to ensure continued forest productivity at a given level of management without impairing the productivity of the land.
Ungulates	Hoofed animals.
Use Respect Program	A program regarding access to public lands with grazing leases.
White Area	The White Area is the region of the province settled initially and includes nearly one third of the total area of Alberta. Available public lands in this region suitable for settlement and agriculture and not required for other multiple uses such as soil and water conservation, deciduous and coniferous timber production, fisheries and wildlife habitat protection or recreational uses, may be applied for pursuant to Public Lands Act (RSA 1980, P-30).
Wildfire	An unplanned or unwanted natural or man-caused fire.
Wildlife Management Unit	An area in Alberta designated in the Wildlife Act (RSA,1980) for the purpose of administration.